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Agenda item 121

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 September 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/896)*]

72/313. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2017 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,[1]

Acknowledging that resolution 71/323 constitutes an important contribution to the strengthening of the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly as established by the Charter of the United Nations,

Underlining the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Reiterating that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the need to align the agenda of the General Assembly in full support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2]

Welcoming the calls to increase the efficiency of the work of the General Assembly through streamlining its agenda, including by elimination of duplication and overlap of agenda items,

Recognizing the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter, and acknowledging its role and authority, established in Article 10 of the Charter, to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both, on questions or matters within the scope of the Charter, except as provided in Article 12 thereof,

[1] Resolutions 46/77, 47/233, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163, 55/14, 55/285, 56/509, 57/300, 57/301, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292, 62/276, 63/309, 64/301, 65/315, 66/294, 67/297, 68/307, 69/321 and 70/305.

[2] Resolution 70/1.

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Please recycle

Stressing the role of the General Assembly in taking forward the major reforms of the Organization, including reforms proposed by the Secretary-General, as contained in resolutions 72/199 of 20 December 2017, 72/266 A of 24 December 2017 and 72/279 of 31 May 2018, adopted during its seventy-second session,

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

Reaffirming also the authority and increasing role of the General Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter,

Mindful of the need to provide all Permanent Missions, regardless of their size and capacities, with ample opportunity to participate in the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees,

Mindful that we have yet to achieve full gender and geographical balance within the United Nations, while encouraging further intergovernmental efforts in this regard, and convinced of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men from all regional groups in their access to senior decision-making positions, including to the post of Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity,

Welcoming, in this regard, the efforts of the Secretary-General in achieving gender parity at senior management level, in particular the initiation of the system-wide strategy on gender parity,

Recalling the conclusion of the process of selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General, which was characterized by an enhanced degree of transparency, accountability and inclusivity, in accordance with resolutions 69/321 of 11 September 2015 and 70/305 of 13 September 2016,

Recalling also the fact that women constituted more than half of all of the candidates for Secretary-General presented by Member States in accordance with resolution 69/321, and emphasizing the need to strive for gender balance in the selection of other executive heads,

Recalling further that the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General should be considered in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, and taking into account all relevant General Assembly resolutions, and recalling the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity,

Affirming that the work of the President of the General Assembly and of the Office of the President of the General Assembly shall be guided by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation,

Welcoming the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its seventy-second session,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly and the updated inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto;[3]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, which exists in all six official languages, including an

[3] A/72/896.

overview of major outcomes achieved under this agenda item, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating regularly and equally that web page and its substantive content in a cost-effective manner;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its seventy-third session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(b) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-third session;

4. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the seventy-second session and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the seventy-third session of the Assembly, including the separate indication of relevant provisions that were not implemented, with reasons therefor;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-third session;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

6. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

7. *Recognizes* that implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, enhances the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their full implementation;

8. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, and in this regard stresses the importance of further ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat, in particular the Secretary-General;

9. *Recalls* the practice of holding periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, including his participation in international meetings and events organized outside the United Nations, and invites the Secretary-General to continue this practice;

[4] A/72/736.

10. *Welcomes* the holding of an interactive and comprehensive dialogue between the Permanent Missions and the Secretariat on 5 April 2018, as mandated in resolution 71/323, aimed at improving the work of the Secretariat in its interaction with the Permanent Missions, and requests the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group to continue to convene the interactive dialogue within the framework of the Ad Hoc Working Group, aimed at:

(a) Identifying issues in the interaction of the Secretariat with the Permanent Missions;

(b) Identifying solutions in better meeting the needs and requirements of the Permanent Missions regarding standard operating procedures used at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

11. *Reiterates* its decision to hold thematic dialogues periodically during the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group and to review this arrangement at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly;

12. *Invites* Member States to submit, through the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group, and prior to the holding of the interactive and comprehensive dialogue, specific issues on which action by the Secretariat might be needed, and requests the Secretariat to provide comprehensive answers within a reasonable amount of time on the possible actions, and impediments, if any, to solve the issues raised;

13. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the active participation by the Secretariat during the seventy-second session, and in particular notes with appreciation the establishment of a "one stop shop" as a single entry point for requesting meetings services, while encouraging the Secretariat to make similar arrangements for other services provided;

14. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to organize such debates in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States, including with regard to the frequency and preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion during the debates so as to enable all interested delegations to state their positions and to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and in this context welcomes the initiative of the President of the Assembly at its seventy-second session to select "Focusing on people: striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet" as the theme of the general debate;

15. *Recommends*, in this regard, unless decided otherwise, that no other agenda items should be opened during the dates allocated for the general debate;

16. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to limit high-level meetings to current issues of critical importance to the international community, with the interest of the wider membership in mind and with a focus on the most vulnerable, while encouraging the allocation of events of a strictly sectoral or thematic nature to the six Main Committees;

17. *Commends* improvements in the quality of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, including as presented in the note by the President of the Security Council,[5] and welcomes the willingness of the Council to continue to consider other suggestions concerning improvements to the annual report;

[5] S/2017/507.

18. *Requests* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance world public and media awareness of the contribution made by the Assembly to the fulfilment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, under relevant agenda items, to bring to the attention of the Member States constraints that have prevented the Secretary-General from implementing those provisions of General Assembly resolutions that are addressed to the Secretariat;

Working methods

20. *Reaffirms* existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 of 8 September 2006 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof;

21. *Emphasizes* that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is interlinked with the strengthening of the Main Committees;

22. *Requests* each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group during the seventy-third session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate;

23. *Requests* the continuation of the established practice of holding handover meetings of the outgoing and incoming bureaux to exchange views on outcomes and the upcoming agenda, and of presenting a report by the Chairs of the Main Committees to their successors on best practices and lessons learned;

24. *Requests* the President-elect of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of meeting informally with the incoming members of the General Committee before the beginning of the regular session in order to review the proposed programme of work of the Main Committees, with a view to increasing their efficiency, improving complementarity and avoiding overlap of meetings of the Main Committees to the extent possible, in order to allow for wider participation by Member States;

25. *Calls for* the continuation of the practice of periodical meetings between the six Chairs of the Main Committees during the session of the General Assembly to share best practices and increase the coherence and complementarity of the work of the Main Committees;

26. *Welcomes* efforts to afford elected members of the Security Council appropriate opportunities to prepare for their tenure, and also welcomes the note by the President of the Security Council in which the elected Council members are invited to observe some of its meetings and activities as from 1 October immediately preceding their term of membership;[5]

27. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventy-third session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

28. *Recalls* the Guidelines on the Rationalization of the Agenda of the General Assembly, as adopted in its resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994;

29. *Also recalls* the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council and the Assembly, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and calls for the continuation of such efforts during the seventy-third session of the Assembly;

30. *Requests* the General Committee, while exercising its functions under rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to pay special attention to reduction of such overlap;

31. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session to identify proposals, through consultations with all Member States and the President of the Economic and Social Council, as well as through the convening of the General Committee, aimed at addressing gaps and duplication in the agenda of the Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the report on the strategic alignment of future sessions of the Assembly and other relevant inputs, for the consideration of Member States during the seventy-third session of the Assembly;

32. *Encourages* Member States, in proposing and voting for candidates to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, to seek to promote gender balance in all such bodies;

33. *Recalls* rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and encourages the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of these rules, within their respective mandates;

34. *Also recalls* rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and calls for strict adherence by each speaker to the time limits in the Assembly, where applicable, bearing in mind that all speakers shall get the same opportunity to deliver their statements within the allocated time limit, as set out in the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

35. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Chairs of meetings of the General Assembly and United Nations conferences, especially when there is very limited time available for debate, to consider recommending the "all protocol observed" principle, whereby participants are encouraged to refrain from listing standard protocol expressions during their statements;

36. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure the availability through the eDelegate portal of provisional lists of speakers at United Nations meetings and conferences not later than by the end of the business day preceding the relevant meeting or conference;

37. *Recommends* that speakers should be mindful of the speed of statement delivery, bearing in mind the need for accuracy of interpretation;

38. *Urges* all presiding officers and Member States to strictly adhere to the scheduled starting time of meetings of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies;

39. *Calls upon* all officers chairing or facilitating intergovernmental processes to seek to conduct informal negotiations during regular working hours, in order to allow for the active and constructive participation of all Permanent Missions in the work of the United Nations;

40. *Decides* to continue to consider ways to rationalize the number of side events held during the high-level segment of the general debate, bearing in mind the need to enhance its decorum and significance, and encourages the scheduling of side events at United Nations Headquarters outside of the hours when the general debate is being held;

41. *Takes note* of the possibility for Member States to publish their side events under a dedicated section of the digital version of the *Journal of the United Nations*;

42. *Decides* that, in addition to the general debate and the thematic meetings, the interactive and comprehensive dialogue between the Permanent Missions and the Secretariat held within the Ad Hoc Working Group, as outlined in paragraph 10 of resolution 71/323, shall be webcast;

43. *Recalls* its resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963, 2837 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 45/45 of 28 November 1990, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 58/126 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316, and reiterates its call to the President of the General Assembly to continue to make full use of the General Committee throughout the session, with a view to reviewing the programme of work of the Assembly and its Main Committees, in line with rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

44. *Reiterates its invitation* to the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, as well as to the Secretary-General, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity, effectiveness and distribution throughout the session, and to consider ways to decrease the number of high-level events held during the general debate;

45. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in order to enhance transparency, to continue to attach the list of speakers at high-level thematic debates organized by the President to the summary of those events;

46. *Encourages* the scheduling of future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences and without prejudice to the current practice of convening one high-level meeting in September at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the possible alternative dates for the beginning of the regular session of the Assembly[6] and the financial and logistical implications thereof, as well as on potential benefits and shortcomings of various options, based on the premise that any such change will not have an effect on the beginning of the general debate in September;[7]

48. *Decides* to establish the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming 10 sessions of the General Assembly, namely from the seventy-fourth to the eighty-third session, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

49. *Also decides* to prepare arrangements concerning the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the following sessions no later than at its eighty-second session;

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[6] As contained in rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

[7] The general debate shall begin on the Tuesday of the fourth week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day, and shall be held without interruption over a period of nine working days.

50. *Continues to encourage* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of the Chairs and bureau members of the Main Committees as well as the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, where applicable;

51. *Decides* to continue to consider, within the Ad Hoc Working Group, the potential concept and scope of guidelines on how to conduct the election campaigns by Member States, with a view to improving the standards of transparency and equity;

52. *Welcomes* the efficient implementation of paragraphs 47 and 48 of resolution 71/323 relating to the conduct of elections in the General Assembly and the Main Committees;

53. *Notes* the practice implemented during the secret vote-counting procedure, whereby no use of mobile phones or other electronic communication devices is permitted in the room where counting is being conducted, thus ensuring the confidentiality of elections and the integrity of secret ballots, and requests the continuation of this practice;

54. *Encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs and reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and in this regard requests the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such services, under eDelegate, including the continuation of the practice of making available all official correspondence of the United Nations addressed to the Member States;

55. *Takes note* of the introduction of real-time updates with respect to the cancellation and postponement of meetings, and requests the continuation of this practice with further improvements, in particular with the introduction of the possibility of subscribing to relevant agenda items with automatic notifications to subscribers on their status;

56. *Emphasizes* that multilingualism remains a core value of the Organization, and reaffirms the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages in the United Nations, including on official websites;

57. *Welcomes* the publishing of electronic live versions of the Blue Book, the White Pages and the Yellow Pages;

58. *Takes note with appreciation* of the changes to the format, production and editing of the *Journal of the United Nations*, and requests the Secretariat to continue the improvement of the *Journal* in accordance with requirements provided in paragraph 51 of resolution 71/323 and to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-third session on the outcomes of that improvement;

59. *Affirms* the principle that the *Journal* shall provide an overview of all meetings taking place at the United Nations, and requests that meetings be listed under the established categories in contiguous order and that all meetings organized by States be included, provided that information has been submitted to the *Journal* unit in due time, and clarifies that the existence of web pages for sessions of bodies should not preclude the announcement of side events;

60. *Calls upon* all relevant intergovernmental bodies to continue to review the need for and content of the *Journal* summaries of their meetings and other announcements, and to take the steps necessary with a view to ensuring a more streamlined format for the *Journal of the United Nations*;

61. *Reiterates* the need to produce the *Journal* in all six official languages in strict compliance with rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

62. *Emphasizes* the importance of the extension of the information in the *Journal of the United Nations* published in the six official languages, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group, on a yearly basis, on the progress achieved in this regard, and requests the Secretariat to continue to explore cost-neutral options to that effect;

63. *Takes note* of the concerns raised by multiple Member States regarding the prohibitive cost of the use of the Delegates' Dining Room and other venues at the United Nations by delegations for holding diplomatic events, and requests the Secretary-General to provide, during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, innovative proposals on solutions for the existing situation, including the possibility of introducing certain elements in future contracts with the vendor;

64. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide, in an electronic version only, a list containing the names of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly and officers of the Main Committees, as well as members of the Security Council, members of the Economic and Social Council and Member States and observers of the United Nations;

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

65. *Encourages* future Presidents of the General Assembly to actively contribute to the implementation of provisions guiding the selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General, as contained in all relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 69/321 and 70/305;

66. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, given the roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, and emphasizes in particular that the process of selection of the Secretary-General is guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, building on the best practices and the participation of all Member States;

67. *Stresses*, in particular, the need to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the post of Secretary-General, who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and who demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills;

68. *Also stresses* that, in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard shall continue to be given to regional rotation and to gender balance;

69. *Reaffirms its commitment* to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its thorough consideration of the issues under the third thematic cluster of the Working Group, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, including the examination of innovative ways to improve the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General and other executive heads in all its aspects, and recalls all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292 of 2 August 2007, 62/276 of 15 September 2008, 63/309 of 14 September 2009, 64/301 of 13 September 2010, 65/315 of 12 September 2011, 66/294 of 17 September 2012, 67/297 of 29 August 2013, 68/307 of 10 September 2014,

69/321, 70/305 and 71/323, reaffirming the applicable procedures set out in the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 141, and acknowledging existing relevant practices of the Assembly;

70. *Calls upon* the President of the General Assembly to monitor and review the implementation by the Assembly of these resolutions;

71. *Recalls* that informal dialogues and meetings with candidates for the post of Secretary-General, as provided for in paragraph 42 of its resolution 69/321, are an important part of the selection and appointment process, and encourages the President of the General Assembly to further improve, in close consultation with Member States, the modalities of these dialogues in order to increase their efficiency and interactivity with Member States;

72. *Recognizes* the possibility of providing the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General with notional timelines based on its resolution 69/321 and other relevant resolutions;

73. *Welcomes* the collaboration between the General Assembly and the Security Council in launching the process and circulating information on the nominated candidates during the most recent selection of the Secretary-General, and encourages improvement in the interaction between the Council and the Assembly in all stages of the process to further enhance transparency;

74. *Decides* to review the oath of office of the Secretary-General during its seventy-third session;

75. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General towards achieving equal and fair distribution in terms of the gender and geographical balance of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization, while securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter and its resolutions 46/232 of 2 March 1992, 51/241, and 71/263 of 23 December 2016, commends in particular the fact that gender parity was achieved in the Senior Management Group, and requests that further effective measures be taken in this regard;

76. *Takes note* of the call by the Secretariat to all Member States encouraging the nomination of candidates to supplement the Secretary-General's search to ensure a wide pool of candidates for positions at the senior level;

77. *Recalls* its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in particular paragraph 2 thereof, in which it notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States, stresses that the process of appointments to senior posts by the Secretary-General within the Organization should be inclusive and transparent, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and as set out in the Charter, and in this context calls upon the Secretary-General to announce such vacancies well in advance;

78. *Stresses* the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender balance and as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard recalls its resolutions 46/232 and 51/241, adopted without a vote, which contain the principles that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are the paramount considerations in the recruitment and performance of international civil servants and that, as a general rule, there should be no monopoly on senior posts in the United Nations system by nationals of any State or group of States;

79. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General continue his ongoing efforts to ensure the attainment of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance in the Secretariat, while recalling its resolution 71/263, in particular the paragraphs thereof related to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance;

80. *Requests* the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat to continue with the practice of providing a briefing to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the gender balance and regional origin of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization, and takes note of the practice of distributing said briefing to the Member States;

81. *Invites* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes to maintain updated information regarding the past and present executive heads on their official websites in order to strengthen transparency, as well as accessibility of the historical record;

82. *Requests* the Secretariat to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-third session on the issue of candidacies of senior United Nations officials currently holding office, in order to enhance transparency and equity of the appointment process;

Strengthening the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

83. *Commends* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session for strengthening the transparency and inclusivity of his Office, including through continuing the practices outlined in paragraph 66 of resolution 71/323, and for voluntarily presenting the summary of his personal financial disclosure, and requests future Presidents of the Assembly to follow these good practices;

84. *Notes with appreciation* the views expressed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the strengthening of the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President and its relationship with the Secretariat and the measures already taken in this regard, while continuing to explore additional measures where feasible, and notes the support provided by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to the Office of the President;

85. *Encourages* the President of the General Assembly to continue the practice of periodically briefing Member States on his or her activities, including official travel;

86. *Commends* the initiative of convening a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the Assembly;

87. *Stresses* the importance of continuing with the practice of providing a handover report from the President of the General Assembly to their successors and all Member States, as well as of further efforts to improve archiving and record-keeping by the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

88. *Strongly welcomes* the organization of informal dialogues with candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, as well as the circulation of vision statements, as outlined in paragraph 73 of resolution 71/323;

89. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group to establish, in close consultation with the President of the General Assembly, the guidelines for the informal interactive dialogue with candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, including the question of participants, duration and format;

90. *Highly commends* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session for introducing the morning dialogues, envisaged as informal discussions among Permanent Representatives on the substantive and practical aspects of work of the Assembly, and strongly encourages the continuation of the valuable practice of regular meetings between the President and the Permanent Representatives;

91. *Invites* the Presidents of the General Assembly to maintain the practice of holding monthly meetings with the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in order to ensure cooperation, coordination and exchange of information on cross-cutting issues related to the work of the Organization;

92. *Expresses deep satisfaction* that at the seventy-third session, and for the fourth time in its history, the General Assembly will have a female President, in this regard invites Member States to consider presenting women as candidates for the position of future Presidents of the General Assembly, and encourages Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly, both in terms of numbers and level of responsibility, without prejudice to professional qualifications of potential candidates;

93. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the sources of funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such support by the Secretariat;

94. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General and its invitation to the heads of specialized agencies, funds and programmes, upon request by the President of the General Assembly, to consider seconding staff to work in the Office of the President of the General Assembly on a more systematic basis;

95. *Notes* that the activities of the President of the General Assembly have increased markedly in recent years, recalls provisions regarding support for the Office of the President of the General Assembly in previous resolutions, and expresses continued interest in seeking ways to further support the Office, in accordance with existing procedures, in particular rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, as well as to continue discussions within the Ad Hoc Working Group on further steps to strengthen the Office;

96. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020, proposals to review the budget allocation of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, in accordance with existing procedures, including rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and taking into account the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the issue, and in this connection looks forward to considering such proposals during the main part of its seventy-fourth session;

97. *Takes note* of the practice of making non-staff programme budget resources available to Presidents of the General Assembly from the date of their election;

98. *Stresses* the importance of the contributions of Member States to the trust fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard notes with appreciation the contributions that have been made to the fund, and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the fund and to allow for unspent contributions from previous sessions to be made available for succeeding terms;

99. *Welcomes* the continuation of the practice of vetting all contributions from sources other than Member States through the Ethics Office, and urges adherence to this practice;

100. *Reiterates its call for* non-in-kind contributions to be channelled through the trust fund, and welcomes steps taken in this regard by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

101. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-third session of the Assembly on the implementation of all mandates accorded to her under the present resolution and previous relevant resolutions.

116th plenary meeting
17 September 2018

Annex

Pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly

Session	*First Committee*	*Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)*	*Second Committee*	*Third Committee*	*Fifth Committee*	*Sixth Committee*
Seventy-fourth	Latin American and Caribbean States	Asia-Pacific States	African States	Western European and other States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States
Seventy-fifth	Western European and other States	African States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Latin American and Caribbean States
Seventy-sixth	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States
Seventy-seventh	Asia-Pacific States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States
Seventy-eighth	Eastern European States	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States	Asia-Pacific States
Seventy-ninth	Latin American and Caribbean States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States
Eightieth	Western European and other States	Latin American and Caribbean States	African States	Asia-Pacific States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States
Eighty-first	Asia-Pacific States	African States	Eastern European States	Western European and other States	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States
Eighty-second	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States	Asia-Pacific States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Western European and other States	African States
Eighty-third	African States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Latin American and Caribbean States	Eastern European States	Asia-Pacific States	Western European and other States